

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3393

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KADUNA 0705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, MILI, NI, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO WEST POINT BY NIGERIAN DEFENCE

ACADEMY (NDA) TEAM

REF: LAGOS 9174

1. PO DISCUSSED PROPOSED TRIP WITH MAJ. GEN. JALO, NDA COMMANDANT, AND BRIGADIER E.S.O. ARMAH, NDA DEPUTY COMMANDANT, ON AUGUST 13. ARMAH, WHO WILL HEAD FIVE OFFICER TEAM EXPLAINED THAT NDA (WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SET UP BY INDIAN ARMY ASSISTANCE GROUP ALONG LINES OF INDIAN ARMY OFFICER TRAINING) WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, CURRICULA OF WEST POINT, SANDHURST AND PRINCIPAL ARMY ACADEMIES IN CANADA AND INDIA TO DRAW UPON BEST IDEAS AND FEATURES FOR TRAINING OFFERED BY THESE INSTITUTION AND REVAMP NDA PROGRAM AS APPROPRIATE.

2. OTHER OFFICERS IN TEAM WILL BE LT. COL. S.S. UMARU, NDA GSO-1 COORDINATOR; LT. COL. P.K. OBASA, NDA ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT LECTURER; MAJOR CHARLES MBABA, NDA TRAINING BRANCH AND MAJOR ALI FROM MOD TRAINING BRANCH IN LAGOS. GROUP SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR UK FOR SANDHURST VISIT O/A AUGUST 30. AFTER PROPOSED VISIT TO USMA DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, TEAM WILL CONTINUE ON FOR VISITS TO CANADIAN AND INDIAN ESTABLISHMENTS. PO INDICATED THAT PROPOSED DATES FOR USMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIGHT BE INCONVENIENT AS ACADEMY'S ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS IN

EARLY SEPTEMBER AND SUGGESTED THAT, IF THIS WAS THE CASE, ARMAH MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER REVERSING ORDER OF US AND CANADIAN VISITS--IF THIS WERE BETTER ARRANGEMENT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH INSTITUTIONS. A ARMAH AND JALO THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD IDEA AND SAID THEY WOULD GET MESSAGE OFF TO NIGERIAN MILATT IN WASHINGTON ASKING HIM TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY. PO TOLD THEM THAT, IF THERE NO OBJECTION FROM NIGERIAN SIDE, DATT LAGOS COULD CONTACT CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION TO INFORMALLY ASCERTAIN WHETHER REVERSAL OF CANADIAN AND US VISITS MIGHT BE TO TO ADVANTAGE OF ALL CONCERNED. JALO AND ARMAH ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED SUGGESTION AND SAID THEY WOULD BE PLEASED IF COL. BROOKS COULD DO SO.

3. NDA TEAM WILL WISH DISCUSS VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF OPERATION AND PHILOSOPHY OF USMA: INCLUDING METHOD OF CADET RECRUITMENT/SELECTION (ESPECIALLY IF GEOGRAPHIC AND OR ETHNIC FACTORS INVOLVED SINCE THESE ARE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN NIGERIA); SIZE, COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF FACULTY AND SUPPORTING STAFF; ORGANIZATION OF CADET CORPS INCLUDING METHOD OF SELECTION OF CADET CORPS NCOS AND OFFICERS; METHODS OF ASSESSING CADETS THROUGHOUT THEIR FOUR YEARS AND PARTICULARLY AT COMPLETION OF THEIR FINAL YEAR; DISCIPLINE, INCLUDING HONOR SYSTEM, HAZING, CODE OF CONDUCT, EXPULSION, ETC.; AND CURRICULUM ON BOTH MILITARY AND ACADEMIC SIDES. TEAM ALSO INTERESTED IN SAME GENERAL INFORMATION FO OCS PROGRAMS AS NDA HANDLES AN EQUIVALENT PROGRAM. (PO TOLD THEM THAT THIS SORT OF TRAINING NOT CARRIED OUT AT USMA.) GROUP WOULD LIKE TO BE BRIEFED AS WELL ON BUREAUCRATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSLHIP OF USMA TO DOD, JCS AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.

4. BRIGADIER ARMAH IS RELAZED INTELLIGENT OFFICER IN MID-THIRTIES. HAS HELD CURRENT POSITION SINCE LATE 1975, WAS PROMOTED TO CURRENT RANK IN SPRING 1976. HE APPEARS DESTINED FOR HIGHER POSITIONS IN NIGERIAN ARMY. ARMAH IS MARRIED WITH CHILDREN, BUT NOT AVERSE TO ASSOCIATIONS WITH OTHER WOMEN. HE IS FRIENDLY TO PO AND OTHER CONSULATE OFFICERS AND SHOWS NO OBVIOUS POLITICAL BIASES. HE HAS HAD TRAINING IN UK, PROBABLY AT MONS OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL. OBASA IS BASICALLY NON-PROFESSIONAL OFFICER WHO RECEIVED DIRECT COMMISSION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONJUNCTION WITH HIS APPOINTMENT AS ACADEMIC LECTURER AT NDA. UMARU AND ALI ARE GRADUATES OF NDA AS IS MBABA WHO MAY ALSO HAVE HAD SOME TRAINING IN INDIA. ALI IS MOD HEADQUARTERS-IMPOSED "TOURIST" WHO BUMPED ANOTHER NDA FACULTY MEMBER FROM TRIP. ARMAH IS NOT PLEASED WITH HIS INCLUDION IN GROUP.

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